# 9th Grade Checklist

## High School

**Do high school right.**

- Set goals for the year.
- Go to all of your classes.
- Discover how you learn best.
- Learn how to make outlines and how to do research.
- Ask for help and use online resources.
- Turn in all assignments.
- Read - it makes you smarter!
- Find a mentor - a parent, teacher, counselor, coach, other trusted adult, or older student.

**Take the right classes.**

- Meet with your school counselor and develop a four-year high school plan.
- Explore ways to earn college credit while you’re still in high school.
- Challenge yourself with honors or advanced classes.
- Plan to take math all 4 years in HS.
- Take a foreign/world language if offered.
- Review the Regents’ Scholarship requirements at RegentsScholarship.org.

## Higher Ed Prep

**Explore colleges and careers.**

- Use the College Best Fit Navigator tool to discover which college will work best for you. (gearupforcollege.com/best-fit/)
- Talk with your parents, friends, and community members about their college experience.
- Continue exploring different occupations that match your interests.
- Decide what is most important to you in college.
- Make a list of different colleges that interest you.
- Visit a college campus on a field trip with your school or your family.

**Get involved in your school and community.**

- Volunteer experience and getting involved with after-school activities can boost your resume and potentially earn you money for college, since some scholarships require a record of volunteer hours.
- Volunteer in your community. Find volunteer opportunities with U Serve Utah (userve.utah.gov) and United Way 2-1-1 (uw.org/211/volunteer).
- Sign up for at least one school club or after-school program. Talk to your school counselor or a teacher about what opportunities are available.

## Cha-Ching

**Check out different ways to pay.**

- Read about the various ways to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans.
- Make a plan to pay for college with your parents. For example, part-time work in high school and college can help you pay for college costs and start building your resume.
- Start to build a scholarship and college admissions resume to track your achievements.
- Freshman Brag Sheet - Keep track of your experiences and awards in one place for a quick reference when applying for scholarships and jobs.
- With the help of an adult, open a college savings account. Learn more at my529.org. If you already have a savings account, contribute what you can to it.
- Search and apply for as many scholarships as possible.